

Silistra Garden Party October 2011

The goods, a whole 27 cubic meters arrived in Silistra and the Director Stilian and the children unloaded the lorry and stored all the goods which we had already color coded for organizations identify. We had goods for everybody including our own Silistra orphanage the Dimcho, the Baby orphanage, the Home for the Elderly, The Disability Centre, Malek Pretlavets orphanage, Dobrich orphanage, Pryatail orphanage the local doctors surgery and three local villages. We had so much stuff it was difficult to find a place to store it for to long so we had to arrange collection asap. We went around all the organization in Silistra and arranged a pick up date and time. The one far away like Dobrich had transport problems but did come with one car and fill the car. The remaining 50 odd boxes of goods were giving to other establishments. We also had to rely on our British friends who were attending the Garden Party to fill their cars with however many boxes they could and drop them off at the orphanage in their area for us, once again these lovely people came to our rescue. Thanks a million guys you all did fantastic. Due to the problem of transporting goods around Bulgaria we have decided that we will only stick to our own region of Silistra next year.



We had been to the orphanage every day since we arrived in Silistra. There was so much to do so many boxes of goods to get moved and check and get ready for the Garden Party. We sorted all the party boxes out but could not find the ones with the cup plates etc so we had to go to every establishment and check though their boxes. We searched everywhere but could not find them until the morning of the party when we were sending someone to buy new ones, one of the cooks said she put that box of item into the store room – Phew! a sigh of relief when out came the box with the 500 odd cups plate and cutlery along with the tea and coffee.





We ordered the bread finger rolls for the sausages Freezerman Andy donated to us. He had already given us burgers and all the baps to go with them. I bought soft finger rolls (fruit ones) just to show them what we wanted as we did not want a repeat of last years half a French loaf each. Anyway all was clear and we ordered 320 finger rolls and they would be ready the morning of the party. We went along to pick them up and they were not soft finger rolls but crusty finger rolls however, they were smaller than last year. Could not do anything then so, had to accept them. We also collected the drinks that were donated by a sponsor in Silsitra. Unfortunately there was very little support from the companies in Silistira, which was a dreadful shame considering all the advertising and media cover plus they all thought what we do is brilliant. We had help with delivering the computers from NTZ Taransport Ltd in Sofia which was wonderful. Our first Bulgarian company that helps us is



from Burgas. Borislav has been sponsoring us for 3 years now.

They are just wonderful and in addition to their annual donation Borislav also supplied two massive boxes of sweets for the Dimcho. Well done guys you did fantastic! Hopefully next year we will have a few more companies joining Nominal Ltd and NTZ Taransport Ltd.

Thanks again for the support of the British companies including Anglo-Info, Bulgarian Lifestyle, The Chocolate Box, BritishimportsBG, Freezerman and Pescott's and others in Bulgaria and the expats living there. They were all just amazing and they traveled from all over Bulgaria for hours and hours just to be with us, You guys are just amazing! Thanks a million time over for your continual support, without you guys we would have been totally lost.

Donations

The food at the Garden party was donated by our British friends Andy & Jane Moat or as many of you know him 'Freezerman' who donated all the sausages/burgers and baps and had them delivered to the orphanage for us. Thank you so much Andy you did fantastic and may I say that everyone commented on the burgers and sausages how tasty they were so well done you!!



Kevin Prescott

'Masterbutcher' sent to the Dimcho vouchers worth 200lev for food for the raffle along with Birdseye burgers and sherbet dips for the children. Thank you Kevin for your wonderful gifts the children were truly delighted plus the raffle prizes and gifts for the children they are just amazing. Kevin has already come forward and said he will be happy to provide all the meat for next years event, how amazing is that!! So once again thank you so much we are overwhelmed with all the support you gave and continue to give us. We look forward to meeting with you all again next year.

Friends gave us raffle prizes Nets did a beautiful painting, Cliff Norton send a fantastic print of 'Finch in the snow' but we did not get enough time to auction this however, this will be kept for next year, thanks Cliff. Cindy at Anglo-Info gave a 2 ring electric cooker top and a free advertising posting. The advertising posting was offered to Andy Freezerman. Irene donated 4 porcelain dolls which were auctioned off and raised 150 lev fantastic amount thanks guys.. Michelle Warner of Bulgarian lifestyle made a fabulous cake and did guess the weight which raised around 80 lev then the cake was won by Sue & Dave and they auctions it off. Christine and Lester won it for 40 lev so Michelle's cake raised a total of 120 lev. Then Christine and Lester donated the cake back to the orphanage. The children were delighted. Joanna had made them some wonderful cup cake and they were really excited when they saw them but now they also had a huge cake they were truly spoilt. Thanks a million guys for making our day, you were all just brilliant and the children were so very happy.



Michelle's Cake



The Raffle the Dimcho won one food voucher

Bryan Talbot



*Luxury, 3 bed villa near Dobrich,
set in beautiful landscaped gardens*

Bryan is a wonderful man he has helped us so much over the last year or so with various projects. Since he has found out about the orphanage Bryan just keeps coming up with ways to help including organizing a Bulgarian Night at his local pub last year where he raised and donated £100 to the orphanage along with various other competitions. He has gone one step further by doing all the photography for the Garden Party this year. He flew to BG just to do this for us. He will produce a photo album for the orphanage and a copy for us in the UK again Bryan will do this at his own cost and will not take any contribution what so ever. He is a fantastic person and we are so luck to have him on our side. Bryan has helped us in so many ways including securing the food for the garden party. Bryan is just wonderful! He will be presenting the photo album to the Dimcho director on his next visit to BG. Thank you a million time over, we are truly grateful to you and Shiela your lovely wife. We are so looking forward to seeing the photographs.

We had many Bulgarian and British couples at the garden party who helped us Sue and Dave, Sue and Arthur, Mike and Jerry, June and Dave, Michelle Joanne, Katya, Venetta Nellie and the girls and many more not forgetting Stilian and all the staff and the children at the orphanage who worked very hard to ensure the day went off well. You were all just brilliant!! Thank you all for your support and help on the day you were just fantastic we could not have done it without you all.



Nellie's Girls

We had an offer of help from my friend and translator Nellie. Nellie is a teacher in the Bulgarian School and she has set up a volunteer programme. This is very exciting news and new to the school. 'The Volunteer Club 365' were our support on the day six student arrived with Nellie and they were given the book stall to run and help with selling the Christmas stocking and the mugs fetching and caring and believe me when I say they were just fantastic. They shone like the stars they are. Well done girls we will try to find projects for them within the Silistra area – they will be helping with the Dimcho and also Malek and the Baby orphanage so if you need volunteers for a project do get in touch, you would have to contribute for their expenses. Sue and all our British volunteers commented on how fantastic and helpful the girls were nothing was too much trouble for them. They were all happy to help where they could and are now looking forward to next years event. They will be visiting the Dimcho on a regular basis to help

Nellie and some of the girls from the [Volunteering Club 365](#)



Valdi Totev & Demmi

As you know Valid and Demmi were our guest stars and it was truly a pleasure to meet them both. They arrived around 12pm and set up ready to go. When they went on everyone just loved them. The children were singing the songs and dancing as well as the adults. Valdi and Dimmi stole the show they were wonderful and they truly enjoyed themselves. It was a true honor to meet such lovely people. Valdi said they will be back next year. They traveled over 100 kg to come and perform for us. Thank you from myself, Dougie and Stilian and everyone else, a massive thank you to you both. You made this event such a memorable day for the children and everyone else. You are both true stars!!



The children from the Dimcho

The children at the Dimcho had performed their singing and two dance routines. The older girls did a kind of Indian gypsy dance which was fantastic and they made all the costumes themselves. The orphanage was a hive of activity all week with all the preparation from costume making to singing and dance rehearsals.



Mike Sinclair

Mike was a candidate at the BG Xfactor and was happy to help us out by singing a song or two. He contacted me and said he has released 3 CD's in Bulgaria and he has decided he would take some of the CD's to the Garden Party and sell them and all the profits would go to the Silistra Orphanage. The was indeed a fantastic offer and Mike, true to his word came along, set up his table and proceeded to sell his CD and made whopping 150lev. Then he handed it over to me before he was taken away and interview by National Bulgarian TV. Thank you Mike, you are just amazing. We look forward to seeing you next year.



Here is Mike signing his CD's for Christine & Lester another wonderful couple.

Jonathan Taylor

Well what can I say; Jonathan is my knight in shining armour an amazing man. He stepped in at the last minute and covered the whole day events. He hosted the day and did recording with everyone to ensure he had coverage of everything. He was wonderful and kept us informed of all activities and events. He even did an auction of the dolls. I am so looking forward to hearing the recordings. I have known Jonathan for a few years now and when he had GBRadio he often told people about our cause. He was disappointed last year he could not make the Garden Party but come rain or shine he was determined to make it this year and it was Jonathan that told Valdi about our event, so we have to thank him for that too. Jonathan you are an angel, thank you so much for looking out for us and the children of the Dimcho. We are truly grateful to you. You did fantastic!! We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Here is Jonathan recording events and also auctioning the dolls



Here are some of the raffle prizes being given back to the orphanage



Bulgarian National Television:

Ivelina and Christian came to film the garden party there were going to say for a while but ended up staying all day. They start at our house at 7.30am then they filmed and interviewed all day. Thank you both for all your wonderful support you did a fantastic job and everyone lovely being interviewed. There will be a film later in the month, hopefully we will obtain a copy and put it on our website. It was really great to meet you both. Thanks a million, you were wonderful!

Finally: we had a brilliant day and thanks to EVERYONE who came along to support us and to all our wonderful volunteers on the day – You all did a fantastic!! We could not have done this without your help. Thanks to your efforts and all our brilliant donors on the day we raised a whopping **2200 lev which is about £1100** This is just amazing and the funds will go toward the roof project so the children will be nice and warm this winter. At first we were a little despondent when we were told the funds would go to the roofing project as we wanted the children to benefit, but then I thought we have already given the children so much, new shoes, clothes, computers,

swimming pool, toys, tv's and 2 Xboxes with 100's of games plus we have provided all the shoeboxes and sweets for Christmas. So the children have had a brilliant year so far and have all the necessities and more.

Next year we will be looking a sending the children on a holiday within Bulgaria, this was briefly discuss with the director I will have to wait to see what the outcome is but in the meantime, if any of you have any ideas of an activity holiday place for say 45 children and some staff, please do let us know.

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Thanks also to Emma, Rick and Margaret, PC Howard Ltd, Tee Kay Packaging Gap, Next, Netmums, Freegle work colleagues and **everyone** who donated, helped and supported us in the **UK**. You all played your own little part in making the children's lives so much more normal and comfortable and needless to say considerably happier so well done!!!

We will look forward to starting collecting goods all over again in Feb 2012

Berni & Dougie

The Bulgarain Orphanage Appeal

www.bulgariaorphanagesillistra.com



Pictures taken 27.10.11